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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

## MEMORANDUM

### *The Situation in Vietnam*

OSD & DIA REVIEW COMPLETED

State Department review completed

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14 May 1967

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Information as of 1600  
14 May 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

US Marines continue to encounter sporadic enemy resistance in northern Quang Tri Province south of the DMZ. US aircraft downed at least ten and possibly 12 Communist fighters over the weekend.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
Sporadic fighting and intensive artillery and mortar barrages highlighted action in the DMZ - Quang Tri area over the weekend (Paras. 1-4). Heavy fighting was also reported in Operation UNION, south of Da Nang (Para. 5). A VC squad successfully attacked a Marine HAWK battery south of Da Nang (Para. 6). Phuoc Vinh Airfield north of Saigon has been attacked for the third straight day (Para. 7). A VC battalion inflicted some 70 casualties on US and South Vietnamese troops southwest of Saigon (Para. 8). VC reports of the presence of a new rocket in the Saigon area have been borne out by analysis of the 12 May Bien Hoa Airfield shell-  
ing (Paras. 9-10).

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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:  
Police Director Loan has discussed the upcoming presidential elections (Paras. 1-3). Premier Ky has decided to push for adoption of some long opposed labor reforms on the Saigon waterfront (Paras. 4-6). There are new indications of concerted efforts by the Communists to undermine the revolutionary development program (Paras. 7-9).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:  
At least ten and possibly 12 DRV fighters were downed by US aircraft over the weekend (Paras. 1-2).

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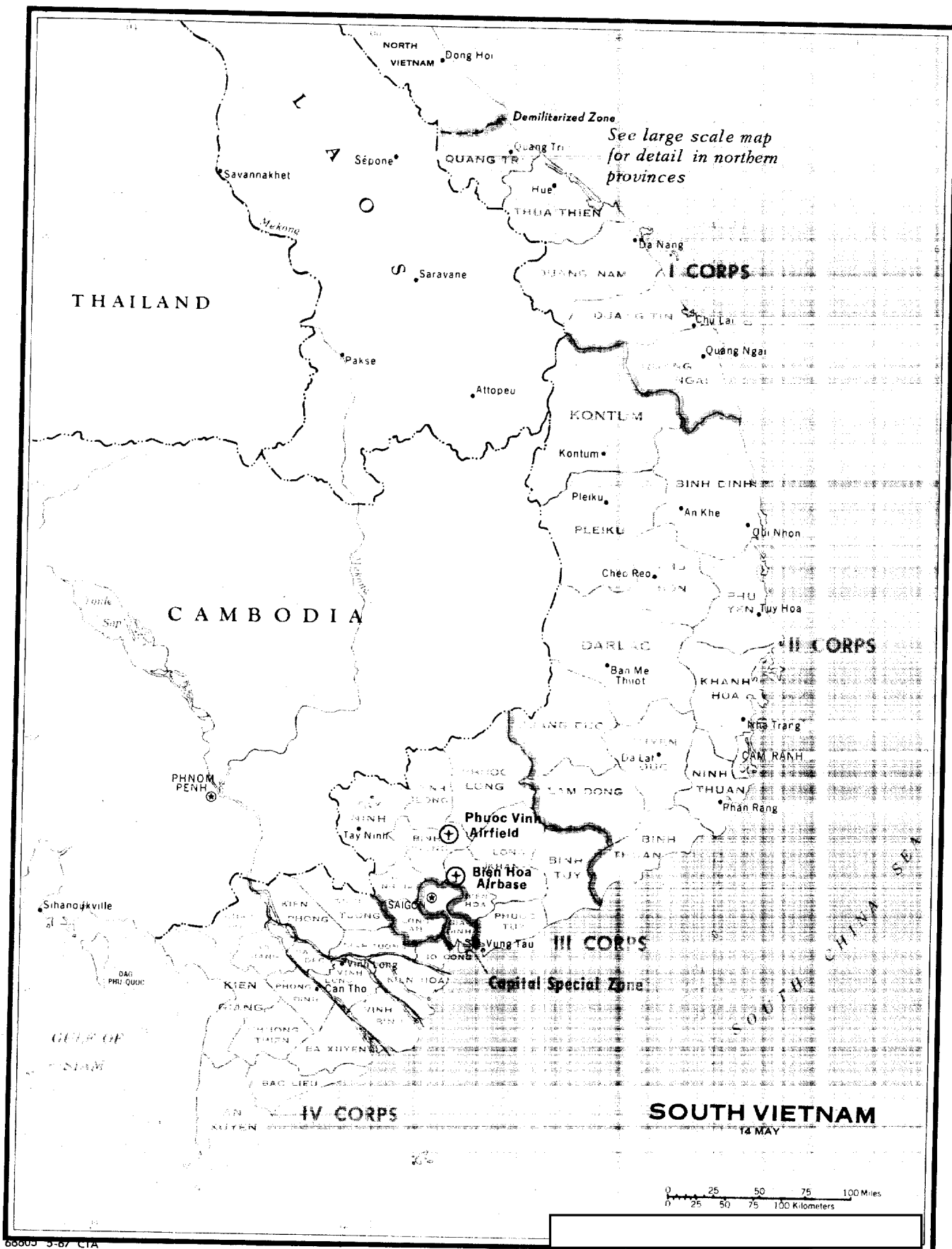
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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There  
is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Sporadic fighting was reported over the weekend in central Quang Tri Province near US Marine positions at Gio Linh and Con Thien. Elsewhere in the DMZ area US Marine search and destroy Operation CROCKETT began on 13 May in the area north and northwest of the Khe Sanh Special Forces camp. One battalion of the 26th Marine Regiment is conducting this operation in search of elements of the 325th NVA Division which remain in South Vietnam. No contacts have been reported thus far.

2. North Vietnamese forces continued their intensive artillery barrages on 12 and 13 May against the US Army/Marine composite artillery battalion at Gio Linh. One US ammunition bunker was hit and 14 US personnel were wounded. Enemy mortars also hammered at Con Thien on 12 and 13 May resulting in light Marine casualties.

3. The enemy artillery fire is coming from within and north of the Demilitarized Zone. Two new artillery weapons--85- and 100-mm. field guns--have apparently been introduced into the DMZ artillery duels. The 85-mm. field gun has a maximum range of just under ten miles while the 100-mm. field gun has a maximum range of some 13 miles. In addition, [redacted] at least eight 130-mm. field guns located some eight miles north of the DMZ. These weapons have a maximum range of about 17 miles. Both the 100-mm. and the 130-mm. field guns have not previously been listed in US estimates of the North Vietnamese artillery inventory.

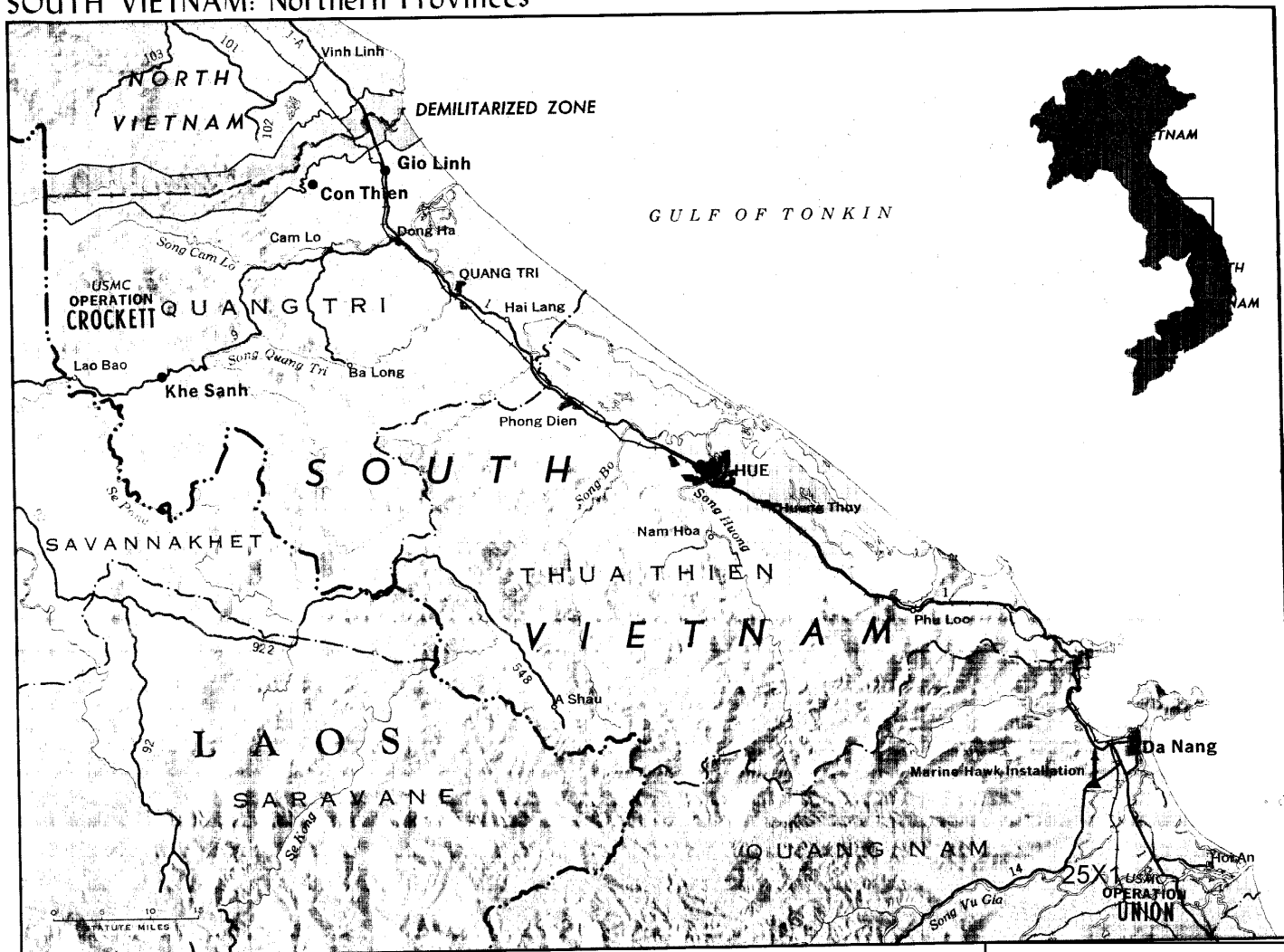
4. A total of ten Marines were killed and 89 others wounded in all of the incidents in northern Quang Tri Province over the weekend. This includes a five-hour fire fight between a Marine and enemy company. Total known VC/NVA casualties were 26 killed.

5. Elsewhere in I Corps, Marine forces conducting Operation UNION in an area some 18 miles

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# SOUTH VIETNAM: Northern Provinces



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south of Da Nang reported nine separate contacts in a 26-hour period on 13 and 14 May. US casualties were 21 killed and 112 wounded while 179 enemy were reported killed. Cumulative casualties for Operation UNION now stand at 101 Marines killed and 427 wounded as against 842 enemy killed.

#### VC Attack HAWK Missile Battery

6. A seven-man VC infiltration squad successfully attacked a Marine HAWK antiaircraft missile battery some five miles southwest of Da Nang early on the morning of 14 May. The enemy force detonated satchel charges and tossed several grenades. Two HAWK missiles were destroyed, five received moderate damage and five light damage. Several other pieces of equipment were either damaged or destroyed. There were no Marine casualties but nine persons were injured fighting a fire started during the attack.

#### Phuoc Vinh Airfield Attacked Again

7. For the third time in the past three days, the Army airfield at Phuoc Vinh, some 34 miles north of Saigon, was hit by an enemy mortar attack. Allied casualties were light and two aircraft and two helicopters received minor damage.

#### VC Battalion Size Attack Near Saigon

8. A South Vietnamese Army battalion located some 12 miles southwest of Saigon was attacked by an estimated enemy battalion early on the morning of 14 May. Several rifle companies from the US 199th Light Infantry Brigade were deployed to support the friendly battalion while other US Army units unsuccessfully maneuvered to block the withdrawal of the enemy battalion. Casualties in this engagement were three US killed and one wounded while 30 South Vietnamese were killed and 36 wounded. Known VC casualties were five killed.

#### VC Used New Rocket in Attack on Bien Hoa

9. An evaluation of the shelling of Bien Hoa Air Base on 12 May indicates that the VC used a

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relatively new Soviet 122-mm. rocket. It had previously been erroneously reported that this attack marked the first use of the 140-mm. barrage rocket in the III Corps area. The 122-mm. rocket has previously been used in the DMZ area.

10. This weapon, first noted in 1964 in the Soviet Union, has a range of approximately ten miles and is probably more accurate than other comparable Soviet launchers. The 140-mm. rocket, by comparison, has a range of about six miles. Captured Viet Cong documents and some prisoner reports had suggested that the Viet Cong were soon to employ a new rocket in the Saigon area. The weapon was described as a "DKZ-B" in the captured document. Individual launchers for this rocket can be fabricated by dismounting tubes from the Soviet multiple-tube launchers, thus facilitating transportation of the weapon for Viet Cong purposes. The longer range and improved accuracy of this weapon will provide the Viet Cong with an improved capability to attack US and other Allied fixed installations throughout the country.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Police Director Loan apparently intends to play a major role in the forthcoming presidential elections.

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25X1 [redacted] Loan stated that he was moving ahead with plans to establish a political organization in the provinces to back the military's candidate. He asserted that the high level of international interest in the elections precluded the possibility of rigging them, but that the military establishment would wield its legitimate patronage powers to assist Prime Minister Ky. He felt that Ky's election could not be assured, however.

3. Loan was pessimistic about the possible course of events if General Thieu should choose to run. He maintained that it would be extremely difficult for individual military commanders to choose between the two men, and that under those circumstances a civilian candidate could be elected. Loan claimed that a confrontation between the military establishment and a civilian president would be inevitable and would lead to a new military take-over.

On The Waterfront

4. Prime Minister Ky has decided to push hard for the adoption of some long opposed labor reforms on the Saigon waterfront. Transport Secretary Thuan told the US labor attaché on 10 May that the government intends to implement a 1965 decree which directed the establishment of a dockers' hiring hall at the Saigon port. The hiring hall concept, which is designed to eliminate middlemen who take cuts from the dockers' wages, has been strongly opposed by the stevedore companies and the CVT dock workers' union.

5. Thuan said that the prime minister expected strenuous opposition from "vested interests," and that union leaders, who Thuan claimed have "sold out" to the stevedore companies, might provoke strikes

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at the port. He said that Ky was determined, however, to press ahead "at all costs," and would kick-off the government campaign at a mass rally on the docks in which he intends to urge the workers to "revolt" against those who are "exploiting them."

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6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the reason for the government's revived interest in the waterfront situation is the forthcoming presidential campaign. [REDACTED] Ky intended to use the waterfront reforms as an example of his solicitude for workers.

Communist Campaign Against Revolutionary Development Program

7. There are new indications that the Communists are making a concerted effort to undermine the government's revolutionary development program. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Viet Cong are placing high priority on countering what they appear to regard as a serious threat posed by the revolutionary development teams. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Communists have ordered their various armed elements--including main forces--to "attack and destroy" the revolutionary development teams as they would other government and US forces in the field. In concert with this program, the Communists have established new honorific titles for cadre who play significant roles against the development teams.

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8. [REDACTED]

the Viet Cong have decided to disband some armed guerrilla units so that their personnel can be infiltrated into villages where the revolutionary development teams are located. The infiltrators objective will be to undermine the development program through direct terrorist attacks on the government cadre, creating dissension between the villagers and the development teams, and by providing intelligence to armed Viet Cong units.

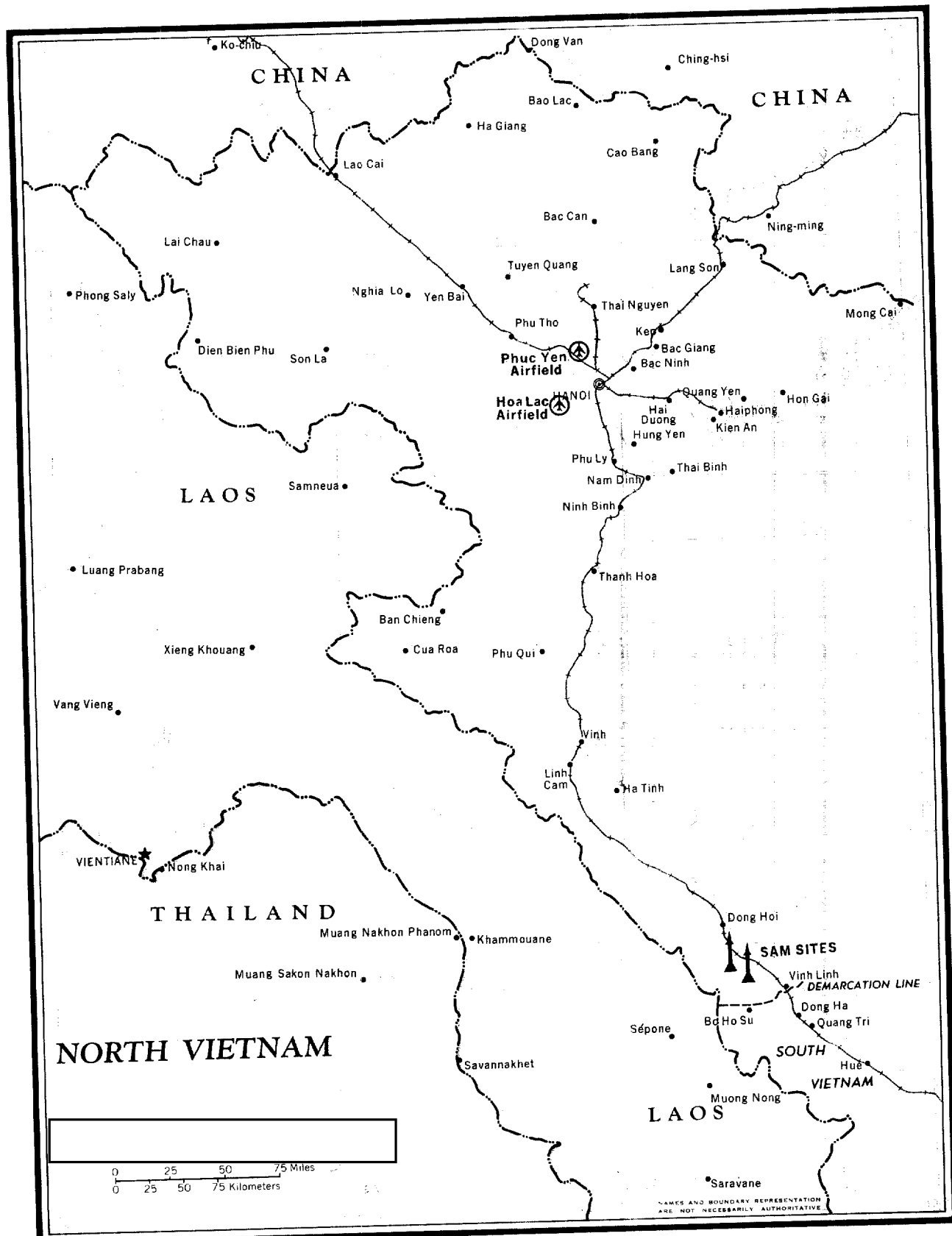
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9. A recent compilation of Viet Cong attacks on revolutionary development workers between 1 January and 30 April shows 309 separate attacks, resulting in 218 cadre killed, 299 wounded, and 40 missing or captured. There were several such attacks reported this weekend resulting in at least 12 government casualties.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. US Air Force fighters shot down ten North Vietnamese MIGs over the weekend in a record two-day effort. Two other MIGs were also claimed as probable shootdowns. Most of the action occurred during US strikes against targets in the general Hanoi area. The willingness of the MIGs to tangle with US aircraft is probably a direct reflection of the closeness to Hanoi of the targets attacked. The shootdowns bring to over 30 the number of North Vietnamese fighters downed since the first of the year.

2. Three US aircraft were lost over the weekend. An F-105 Thunderchief was shot down by a surface-to-air missile while an F-4 Phantom and an F-104 Starfighter were lost for mechanical reasons.

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SAM Sites Near DMZ Struck

5. Some 80 sorties were flown on 13 May by US Air Force aircraft against the two recently discovered surface-to-air missile sites near the DMZ. Forward air controllers report that both sites are no longer operational. The air strikes caused a number of secondary explosions and fires and destroyed or damaged seven trucks, three missile transporters, four missile launchers, and several other pieces of missile-associated equipment.

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